



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Warrenella Truck Trail Fuelbreak		
PROJECT LOCATION	Portions of Rancho San Vicente, T9S and T10S, R3W, MDBM	COUNTY	Santa Cruz
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
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ADDRESS	6059 Highway 9 Felton, CA 95018	PHONE	(831) 335-6794

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project will create two conditions of modified fuels; a shaded fuelbreak in forest dominated landscapes and to a lesser extent, a residual mosaic in a few shrub dominated areas on approximately 163 acres along portions of the Warrenella Truck Trail and Quarry Bypass Roads within the San Vicente Redwoods conservation lands. The fuelbreak will extend up to 100 feet (averaging about 75 feet) on either side of the aforementioned roads for approximately 9 miles; from the crest of Ben Lomond Mountain to the property line of the conservation land near the coastal town of Davenport. Approximately 80%, (7 miles or 127 acres), of the fuelbreak will be created with hand crews. Slash disposal will consist of pile burning, chipping or lop and scatter. The remaining portion (approximately 2 mi or 36 acres) of the project area will be treated with mastication or a combination of hand cutting and mastication. The objectives of the project will be to disrupt the horizontal continuity of surface fuels, vertical continuity resulting from ladder fuels, and increase shrub and understory crown spacing. Forested areas will be treated with a "thin from below" approach reducing surface and ladder fuels and increasing understory crown spacing by removing a majority of trees up to 10 inches DBH. The lower limbs of "leave" trees will be pruned to a height of 6 - 10 feet. The few shrub dominated areas found in the project will be treated with a residual mosaic approach, leaving scattered shrubs and islands of intact formation comprising approximately 30% of the original cover, with an average spacing of 10 - 20 feet apart. Cut material will generally be chipped and spread uniformly on-site, lopped - and - scattered or piled for burning. It is anticipated this project will receive maintenance treatments to sustain the effectiveness of the fuelbreak.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 §15304 Minor Alterations to Land
☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

The work proposed is a minor alteration to vegetation which does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees and is consistent with Categorical Exemption Class 4 - Minor Alterations to Land. No activity is proposed that is listed as a limitation under CCR 15300.2 (a-f).

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit Headquarters, 6059 Highway 9, Felton, CA 95018.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

RECEIVED
SEP 10 2014
STATE CLEARING HOUSE

 9/9/14
Duane Shintaku, Deputy Director Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection